

AWARENESS

The quarterly journal of Contact (UK)

AUTUMN 1979

A W A R E N E S S

Autumn 1979.

(A Contact (UK) Publication)

Volume 8, no: 3.

Editorial Address

19 Cumnor Road,
Wootton, Boar's Hill,
Near Oxford, Oxon.

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The Contact (UK) Directory.

National Chairman: F.W.Passey. 59D Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.

Hon.Secretary: J.Loveridge. 3 Maltfield Road, Headington, Oxford.

Hon.Treasurer: D.N.Mansell. 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, Oxon.

Hon.Membership Secretary: Mrs S.Robb. 28 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield, Oxon.

Public Relations Officer: P.Flatman. 17 Quarhill Close, Over Norton, Oxon.

Research Enquiries: J.Sears and P.Flatman. C/o Wheatley address above.

Senior Research Officer: D.N.Mansell. 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford.

Research Programme Co-ordinator and Librarian: J.B.Delair. 19 Cumnor Road,
Wootton, Boar's Hill, near
Oxford, Oxon.

Archivist: E.Cox. C/o Wheatley address above.

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EDITORIAL

There is no doubt that 1978 and 1979 has witnessed a diminution of ufo activity when compared to that for 1977, which was a truly exceptional year on world-wide scale. Nevertheless, 1978 and the first half of 1979 produced a great spate of extraordinary developments in the overall ufo field (as partially summarised on subsequent pages), while the same general period saw the continuing saga of phantom helicopters and mystery aeroplanes that have been engaging the attention of some researchers since the early 1970's. Indeed, this saga seems to be increasingly slowly in intensity, although whether this is a real increase or merely the result of improved monitoring of such events is something presently uncertain.

Two interesting articles on this latter theme are featured later in this issue, and deserve much attention. One might, for example, speculate after reading them that these mystery helicopters flying low over municipal and private properties infringe public air-space and constitute potential hazards (malfunctions in helicopters are not unknown, while, as craft, helicopters are not the safest of flying machines). Then, again, these helicopters and the equally mysterious military units reported sometimes in association with them (the jurisdiction of which the RAF and Army have denied) are a combination suggestive either of some highly secret defense unit (and just who on Earth are they?) or of aliens mimicing terrestrial military personnel. Unmarked aerial craft are always suspicious. Pugnaciously equipped military units administered by apparently nobody cause eyebrows to rise. Indeed, in view of these factors, we might go so far as to wonder whether these units and their strangely abnormal craft are aliens actually carrying out dummy runs or mock trials under Earthly conditions preparatory to the "real thing" some time in the future? If so, the mimicry factor is prominent here. One fervently hopes that no such "invasion" is scheduled for the future, but the possibility has to be recognised and considered. That is why every conceivable effort should be made to unravel this particular mystery. In the long analysis these mysterious entities (whoever they are) may prove to be harmless, and one certainly hopes so. Meanwhile they should be regarded with suspicion. After all, not all snakes are harmless.

Similar suspicion might be accorded the mystery globs of unknown substances detailed on following pages. What are they, where are they from, and why are they here? Such things have been reported for years, very much as have the above mentioned phantom aeroplanes and mystery helicopters. All manifest themselves irregularly and in every imaginable (and unrelated) locality. Enough is known about them to state that they never cause more than local concern. As nobody has associated death or damage with them they seem innocuous enough. But, as noted above, there appears to be a slow build-up of such events, and that cannot be without significance, especially as there is also an equally noticeable increase of ufo activity over the years, in animal mutilations, sightings of Bigfoot or Sasquatch, skyblasts, and seismic phenomena. One could go on. Suffice to ask the real question: are we now better at monitoring all these things, or are they truly on the increase? If the former, we have missed much interesting past material; if the latter, then something is going on insiduously that we don't understand and which science doesn't accommodate. Although the hour seems late, it is surely not so late that we cannot wake up and get down to serious study, well organised research, and systematic exchange of relevant data on an international basis. We may well owe that both to ourselves and to future Mankind.

The Editor.

"1979 - Year of Mystery Globbs, and of Other Things"

by

J.B.Delair.

Falls of mysterious substances from the skies have been recorded throughout written history, and few, if any, of the actual fallen objects have ever been properly identified. 1979 appears to have been no exception to this rule. Several falls of mysterious substances occurred earlier this year, as detailed below.

A green blob fell from the sky and landed near 16-year-old Richard Charlebois as he drove a tractor on his father's farm near Lachute, Quebec, Canada, on July 7th this year. Richard, and his family, examined the object shortly afterwards, which they said looked like a piece of ice 5 metres square and six centimetres thick.

"When it hit the ground it made a loud crack", Charlebois said. "I looked up to see if there was a plane overhead, but there wasn't. All I could see was blue sky".

The substance began to melt, but had not disappeared by the time that a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman arrived in response from telephone calls from the Charlebois family. He commented: "This is definitely no joke".

A piece of the material was saved and sent to a police laboratory for analysis. The laboratory report is awaited with much interest, although one wonders if we shall ever actually get to hear of the findings of the analysis.

The Free Press, of Winnipeg (Manitoba), which reported this event in its issue of July 12th., 1979, also carried a reference to a similar mystery sky fall of a "flaming blob of stuff" at Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, about one month previous to the above described event. This substance fell upon the backyard picnic table of Traven Matchett, who added that the material had left a frisbee-sized ring on the table. Like the Lachute material, that which fell at Mississauga also melted. Matchett, without much apparent foundation, stated that the ring on his table may be radio-active.

Needless to add, neither of the above substances have yet been identified.

Nor has that which fell in three globbs onto a garage roof in Clifford, Herefordshire, England, on August 1st., 1979. A correspondent who has sent Data Research a brief account of the event, writes that, at about 9.15pm., just after he had finished watering a row of beans at the end of his garden, he heard a "whoompfing" sound but saw nothing. On walking back towards his house shortly afterwards, a curious substance was noticed on the sloping roof of his garage. It appeared to be about one and half yards in width and seven or eight inches high. Examining the glob more closely from the upper rungs of a ladder, the witness could see that the material was already melting, leaving no residue that he could see on the tarred-felting composing his garage roof. Replacing the ladder at the rear end of his garage our correspondent, who prefers anonymity, saw that two smaller but otherwise similar mystery globbs lay on the other slope of his garage (which has an apexed roof) roofing. All three globbs were anoragy-blue and glistened in the evening light, which was now approaching dusk. No smell was exuded by the objects, a circumstance no doubt leading to the correspondent deciding to leave a fuller examination of the globbs until early the next morning. Alas, when next day arrived, no sign of the three globbs was to be seen anywhere. They had presumably vanished as a result of melting.

Two purple coloured blobs that Sibyl Christian found on the front lawn of her property at Frisco, north of Dallas, Texas, USA, on the morning of August 11th., this year, have defied analysis by NASA scientists near Houston, who have examin-

ed the material. Doug Blanchard, one of the scientists, says that the substance resembled a "kind of plum pudding. It has round, solid chunks in it that remain after the goo goes away. We don't know what it is".

Actually, Mrs Christian found three purple blobs, "about the size of an old telephone box" on her lawn, but one of them disappeared before portions could be collected for study. "It just faded away", she said.

Blanchard stated that the two remaining blobs have been placed in deep freezers at NASA headquarters to keep them from evaporating while exhaustive tests on them are carried out. These "may take a month or a month and a half" he added.

Sibyl Christian said that, when she first saw the globs, they "looked like smooth whipped cream, purple. I stuck this stick into the object. It went in easily, very easily. I punctured it. On the inside it was the same thing --- just like real whipped cream, and it looked like it was melting, but it was a deep rose".

When policemen Jaime Davila arrived in response to a telephone call, he tried to pick up one of the globs. "It was pretty warm", Davila said. He used a newspaper to nudge the globs into a box which were then taken to the Heard Natural Science Museum in nearby McKinney. Kenneth Steigman, the museum's curator, said that the globs emit an acidic liquid, attract water, contain uranium, and have "a strange pattern of small specks of lead that look like nothing here on Earth".

Blanchard reports that the globs do not appear to have been produced by any animal. "We have not ruled out something from outer space, but feel that is a small chance. We are pursuing an explanation systematically".

The above information was detailed in the Akansas Democrat (Little Rock), on 8th September, this year. The following day, the same paper reported that Blanchard had ruled out an extraterrestrial origin, as the structure and the presence in the globs of round solid chunks that remain after the gooey parts dissolve, are not like any known type of meteorite. Blanchard added that he thought it possible that the substance had an industrial origin, but could not explain what they were doing on Mrs Christian's property. Blanchard was also obviously studying his material in isolation, as it were. He was apparently ignorant of the Missassauga, Lachute, and Clifford events of a few weeks earlier. Yet all four occurrences share several common denominators, were each of unidentifiable substances, and all naturally melted (except for saved specimens taken to laboratories). The fact that the Frisco globs do not resemble meteoritic material in no way proves that they are not extraterrestrial in origin. The three preceding cases all involve objects or material that fell from above, i.e., the sky.

While there is, of course, no way of proving an extraterrestrial origin for any of the aforementioned mystery substances, it is worth noting that gelatinous matter, which has often melted shortly after falling to Earth, has descended from the heavens on several past occasions, and quite often after the arrival of what frequently appeared to be a meteoritic body. There are many well documented cases of this type, as in earlier issues of this journal and in the books of Charles Fort and M.K.Jessup's "The Expanding Case for the UFO". We do not advocate here that there are gelatinous meteorites, or that fallen meteorites sometimes exude gooey matter, but there does appear to be mounting evidence for a belief in some kind of gelatinous substance that, on falling to earth, sometimes seems to burn in a manner akin to meteorites, and with which they are sometimes confused. In this connection it makes one wonder how many assumed meteorites that burn-up in Earth's upper atmosphere are true stony meteorites and how many are bits of gelatinous matter consumed during their flight Earthwards, but mistaken for stony meteorites. One awaits Mr Blanchard's findings with interest. In any case, one requires a rational explanation for falling globs, irrespective of whether some

of them are mistaken for meteors, just as one does for the following event.

On August 28th., this year, a large chunk of ice careened out of the northern sky over Spotsylvania County, Virginia, USA., and tore a gaping hole $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide in the roof and ceiling of a single-storied home at Fredericksburg. Mr and Mrs Lewis Simms found the hole about four hours after the ice had crashed out of the sky, on returning to their house. At the time of the crash, a neighbour, David Brooks, collected splintered portions of the ice chunk as evidence, and kept them in his refrigerator. Weather and aeronautic officials suggested that the ice fell from a high-flying jet. Mr Brooks said he heard no aeroplane overhead at the time, although it could of course been too high to have been heard. The Arkansas Democrat (Little Rock), of August 30th., 1979, carried a short column describing this event.

Michael Hervey and others in earlier issues of "Awareness" have discussed these mystery falls of ice, very often from entirely clear skies (like the gelatinous and gooey globs mentioned on preceding pages), and have suggested that aeroplanes (high or low flying) have generally not been to blame. Indeed, incidents of this kind are known dating from eras before the advent of the aeroplane. Accepting such early accounts as being as valid as those of today, why should each modern icefall be the result of a passing aeroplane (real or imagined, proved or assumed)? As both modern and early accounts differ in no essentials, and the pre-aeroplane events are not rationally explicable, then to ascribe modern icefalls to aeroplanes, irrespective of whether any were seen at the time or not, is naive and unscientific to say the least. The question is, of course, where do they fall from?

Turning now from things that move downwards to things that move sideways, we focus attention on a very remarkable episode involving Spain and Puerto Rico, and relating it seems to a teleportation, not unlike those discussed some years ago by Gordon Creighton in various issues of Flying Saucer Review. Informed readers will immediately notice that a thick fog is involved at one point in this case, very much as in some of the teleportation cases described by Creighton. The details are as follows.

In the Argentinan magazine "Radiolandia" for June 29th., 1979, in an article headlined "Unusual: From Spain to Puerto Rico ...Without getting out of the Car", we read that the Montoyas were bound for Huelva when a thick fog enveloped their vehicle. When the fog cleared they found themselves in another country. Translation of the Spanish original reads:

"It resembles a science-fiction story. But the fact is that the protagonists are there, where the event took place; and they have not yet recovered from the unforgettable sensation of an experience they could never imagine, nor was it in their wishes when they left their homes to go to a party, and crossed the sea.

"They were going to the pilgrimage of the Virgen del Rocío. The two brothers had left Valencia early in the morning and expected to be in Huelva by dusk. They could not be absent from that mixture of religious and dionysic party at which all the Andalusians meet once a year. And they, Juan and Manuel Montoya were Andalusian.

The Virgen del Rocío, patroness of the marshy region at the mouth of the Guadalquivir, goes on a pilgrimage throughout the region followed by thousands of horsemen, with beautiful women with black eyes and hair, and by carts decorated with vivid colours. But only the residents of Almonte have the privilege of carrying the image on their shoulders, which weighs more than one ton.

Manuel Montoya was singing (a local song).

We had already passed the pass of Despeña-perros. The sun was high, and for lunch

we drank between the two of us a bottle of Valdepeñas (wine-JT) which makes no one drunk. I was sleepy and dozed off. My brother Juan was driving.

When Manuel Montoya woke up the car was on the shoulder of the road and nothing could be seen. Juan said to me. I stopped because of this strange and thick fog, which makes it impossible to drive. It is strange because here in the plain and at this time of the year there are no fogs like this. They wanted to turn on the radio but it did not work. They light a cigarette. Juan took out a bottle of sherry and they gave it a few sips. "...not much. Just to kill the time. There was an imposing silence". Manuel Montoya does not know how much time passed, whether one or four hours.

When the fog lifted we saw the night was starry, beautiful. I said to Juan: with the sleep we had we still have time to reach Huelva in one stretch and get to the Rocío at dawn.

They went on. It was a strange road to them who had used it so many times on their way to Sevilla. "Maybe you took a wrong turn" said Manuel to his brother. Luckily, in the middle of the night, a brightly lit service station could be seen far away. "We loaded the tank with gas and asked. My brother said to the boy who came out: Is this National IV? How many kilometres still for Sevilla?".

The boy answered them in an accent they had heard many times in films.

"What National? From here you go to Ponce".

"I told you, you took a wrong turn" said Manuel to his brother Juan, and also asked, "Then which is the road to Sevilla?"

"I don't know. I'm from here, and can tell you if you want how to get to San Juan, to Rio Piedras or to Mayaguez, but that Sevilla, sounds strange to me".

The two brothers looked at each other. "Either this fellow is drunk or we are, I thought", remembers Manuel Montoya.

Neither were. They had difficulty in realizing they were some twenty kilometres from Mayaguez, in Puerto Rico. It was difficult for Juan Montoya (27), a bank employee, single, and his brother Manuel (25, a foreman at the Public Works) to imagine all this. Disbelief, desperation, amazement, and fright followed.

Manuel Montoya still lives in that state (of mind).

"We finally reached San Juan, in Puerto Rico, and went to the Consulate. We asked our family for money and got them to transfer the money for one passage. I am here, but, where is my brother? Until he returns we prefer not to talk about this matter. You understand, don't you".

This story, incredible though it is, is no more so than the parallel teleportation cases described by Creighton, and bears many comparisons with them. Of particular interest is the mysterious fog that seems to be involved in most of these weird events. The fog not only effectively blots out all familiar features beyond the limits of the vehicles concerned, but seems in every case to cause a time slip (of varying duration), and, of course, a physical teleportation of cars and occupants. We await developments in the above case with much interest. Contact International's special representative in Puerto Rico, well-known Noel Rigau, will hopefully be able to furnish additional details of what surely must be one of the most amazing episodes of the whole of 1979.

Those who connect animal mutilations with ufo activity will be interested to

learn that analogous animal mutilations have recently occurred in Taco, on Tenerife Island in the Canaries. According to information gathered by the paper El Dia of Santa Cruz de Tenerife (issue dated May 12th., 1979), two German shepherd dogs and three goats have been discovered without hearts and with no blood in their veins. It might indeed be premature to blame events of this kind on ufos, just as it might be erroneous to assert that satanic cults said by some to be responsible for the great wave of North American mutilations is extending into the Canary Islands, but whatever the true causes notice should be taken of the following facts.

Animal mutilations have for some years been increasing (sometimes at a disturbing rate) over much of North America, more or less in the wake of a long series of ufo occupant landings and Bigfoot sightings, the latter continuing still to be seen fairly often.

Animal mutilations like those in North America occurred a few years ago in Puerto Rico, just after, and in some instances during, a spate of ufo occupant sightings there and a series of observations strange furry animals and excessively large birds (the Puerto Rican equivalents of Bigfoot?). As detailed on pages 5 and 6 supra, a very remarkable teleportation case has recently occurred in Puerto Rico.

Animal mutilations are apparently now occurring in the Canary Islands. Some sightings of landed ufos and ufo occupants are known from these islands for the recent past; they are not numerous but they have occurred, being chronicled in several reputable ufo publications.

Are the Canary Islands therefore about to host a spate of animal mutilations which, if the pattern loosely established for North America and Puerto Rico is in any way correct, will increase and collectively form a phase preparatory to sightings of strange animals and, perhaps, teleportations? Idle speculation or a repeating pattern altered locally to suit geographically different areas? Time will tell, and it will be interesting to follow-up future "ufological" events in all three regions just delineated.

Moving to another aspect of ufology, there will be those who will be heartened to learn that a recent survey of 1,200 scientists and engineers in Canada has revealed that more than half of them believe that ufos exist and should be officially investigated at government level. These figures are the result of a Gallup poll conducted earlier this year by Industrial Research magazine, a publication that limits its circulation to researchers in industry. The figures differ little from the results of similar Gallup polls of other groups and those conducted by other organizations.

Interestingly, one of the findings is that 8% of the scientists and engineers had actually seen a ufo, and that about one third knew of somebody who had or who claimed to have seen a ufo. Answering various questions, 44% replied that ufos must originate from outer space, and 28% believed that ufos were unexplained natural phenomena. The rest were undecided.

The survey shows that 71% of those under 35 years of age believe in ufos, yet the percentage in the various age groups who claim to have actually seen a ufo does not vary with age but remains at approximately 8% for all age categories. It is concluded that the increase in a positive belief in ufos results from the older, less believing generations slowly dying out or being replaced in industry by younger individuals familiar with Apollo missions and even "Star Trek" films. At that rate virtually everybody will one day believe in ufos, by this very process.

Considering this last statement, is this not precisely what certain contactees claim to have been told by aliens they allegedly met, and who are apparently waiting for that situation to develop before openly contacting men in general? If so, then the entire ufo syndrome is, on at least one level, essentially educative. Perhaps the very strangeness of certain episodes, in which seemingly meaningless ufo activities are featured, are deliberately presented in that fashion simply for educative purposes and that they have no real significance (other than that) even for the perpetrators. Such an explanation would go far towards dispelling John Keel's fears that we are been played with and deceived by ufo entities.

May it not be that we are being played to, not with, and that the so-called deception elements are really educative, in that their very strangeness has forced us to think and wonder about ufos, their identity and their origin/s, and by inference about their creators and manipulators. It is hard to conceive of any other set of events producing such reactions among men if, as now seems obvious, Mankind has not for long been and scarcely yet is ready for confrontation with alien beings. Such a confrontation would be traumatic in several ways and involve massive wrenches away from many cherished dogmas and beliefs. Prior, slow and patient, manoeuvring of Man towards acceptance of alien intelligence on a world-wide scale would be a logical preliminary step on the part of any alien intelligence desiring such eventual liaison with Men. In that sense Mankind is being manipulated and programmed, provided that ufos and their activities are essentially educative.

The only really vital question is not when "they" are coming, but what are "they" coming for. It is this question of motive that is so important. It matters comparatively little where they are coming from; but why they are coming is a different matter. If "they" are simply educators, Mankind probably has little to fear from any eventual confrontation; but their ultimate plans involve domination of Man, then we ought to kill-off any educative processes as may now be discernible in the ufo arena stone dead. To continue might be catastrophic for us. In this latter connection we should not lose sight of the fact that domination of other species is only advantageous to the dominator if the subservient species is sufficiently intelligent to understand and carry out the dominator's instructions. An intellectually impoverished vassal species is of very limited use. Raising the intellect of a potentially harlot species (conceivably Man) could thus be in hand already, without us being aware of it. Such thoughts, although not necessarily accurate, are sobering and cannot be ignored.

Another highlight in the earlier months of 1979 was the confirmation that the U.S. Air Force possessed and had for long been using a publication that not only admitted the existence of ufos but provided quite detailed instructions as to the type of action that should be taken if, as an airman, one was confronted with a ufo. The textbook, used at the Air Force Academy, is called "Introductory Space Science", and was written by Major Donald Carpenter. It warns against the foolishness of debunking ufos without first considering all the evidence available to researchers around the world. Maj. Carpenter writes:

"We should not deny the possibility of alien control of UFOs on the basis of preconceived notions not established as related or relevant to UFOs. The entire phenomenon could be psychological, but that is quite doubtful".

He continues: "Psychological factors probably enter into the data picture. The phenomenon could also be entirely due to known and unknown natural phenomena (with some psychological "noise" thrown in) but that too is question-

able in view of some data".

This textbook proves that the U.S. Air Force is, and has been, teaching future officers that: "...the most stimulating for use is that UFOs are objects which are either 'manned' or remote-controlled by aliens from another world. A solution of the UFO problem may be obtained by the long and diligent effort of a large group of well-financed and competent scientists. Unfortunately there is no evidence that such an effort will be made."

Carpenter concludes with the sound recommendation: "The best thing to do is to keep an open mind and a skeptical mind, and not take an extreme position on any side of the question".

Major Carpenter's words are extraordinarily reasonable (when compared to the manner irrational and sometimes downright stupid statements issued by various Air Force and military bodies from time to time), and in full accord with what the most informed civilian researchers believe, and have believed, is the correct attitude towards the ufo phenomenon.

Alfred Pirozzoli, a well-known ufo researcher, said in Naugatuck, Conn., USA, that he had "...been looking for this book for the last ten years". He added: "But the Air Force always denied there was an academic textbook dealing with UFOs!" Pirozzoli also states that the textbook contains the following well researched findings.

- (i) UFOs come from other planets.
- (ii) They are egg-shaped vehicles.
- (iii) Their crews include three-and-a-half foot-high creatures with wrap-around eyes.
- (iv) UFOs have been buzzing Earth for the past 50,000 years.
- (v) Air Force Fighters have chased and fired upon UFOs.

Pirozzoli says that the textbook was published in 1966, but its existence was kept from the public until its recent "unveiling" by researchers.

Many ufologists will want to know if the U.S. Air Force acts in vacuo concerning ufos, and whether there are navy and army equivalent texts being secretly used in the training of naval and military officers. It would be strange, indeed, if that were not so, as presumably a kind of united or shared opinion about ufos would be circulated among all "military" and "defense" upper echelons. Moreover, it would be uncharacteristic for the army and navy to allow the Air Force to be "a jump ahead" of them in the matter of officer training, particularly as the little matter of national defense is shared by all three branches of the services and is not the sole prerogative of the Air Force. Taken a step further, how many manuals and textbooks dealing with ufos are used in officer training courses in other countries? Viewed from such a position it is not difficult to appreciate why the vast majority of "military" and "defense" establishments are reticent about issuing public statements concerning ufos, and why no one government (the French excepted) appears to "step out of line" on the subject. Indeed, one might ask, are all major world governments already collaborating about the ufo problem at some high and secret level. The special defense and alliance pacts that exist between various groups of countries depend upon sharing of data, systems, and personnel. One needs to elaborate no further.

1979 has, therefore, proved so far to be a quite remarkable year and many noteworthy developments on the ufo front have occurred in a quite wide variety of fields. It will be interesting to see if the next twelve months turn out to be as informative.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place at Oxford Town Hall on February 9th., 1980. Although fuller details will be issued in due course, doors will open at 2.30 pm. and proceedings will continue until 9.00pm.

There will be a new exhibition, and lectures will follow the annual general meeting proper. There will also be a brain's trust on ufological topics and the announcement of special awards to members.

National committee officers have all offered themselves for re-election, but any new nominees for posts on the national committee may be submitted between now and February 1st 1980 direct to the secretary (address at the beginning of this issue). Candidates should be proposed and seconded by subscribing members of Contact (UK), in the usual way. Election of any and all officers for 1980-81 will be final and binding on February 9th.

Last year's proceedings were a resounding success, with an unprecedented number of individuals (including many members of the public) attending. In order that subscribing members are not disappointed with regard to obtaining well-positioned seats at the venue, all those who intend attending the A.G.M. are advised to inform the Membership Secretary of their intentions well in advance and seats will be reserved for them. All members requiring reserved seats, however, must state their membership numbers when applying for reservations. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Make February 9th a date in your diaries and make sure you attend what is always an interesting event. We look forward to seeing you again.

SOME CLOSE ENCOUNTER CASSETTE SPECIALS

Twenty four separate titles in this series are now available. They include sightings, humanoid, contact, and other related experiences. Actual witness excerpts included. Certain cassettes deal with events that are not suitable for those of nervous disposition. Examples of tapes now available are:-

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A DATA RESEARCH APPRECIATION

All members of the Data Research team wish to place on record here their grateful appreciation of the many members who have in quite wonderful fashion sent in documented press clippings relating to ufos. Many are from provincial newspapers we seldom if ever see, and so are especially valuable. This is just the kind of co-operation on which any worthwhile organization thrives. May the flow continue in the future. We don't mind investing in frogmen's outfits to combat the torrent.

"THE SUICIDE SYNDROME"

by

Jenny Randles*

A recent quotation from an Australian UFO magazine intrigued me. In effect it said: "are you looking for answers or are you part of the problem?" This I considered to be most apt as a description (sad to say) of many so-called ufologists. John Keel has it nicely summed-up when he says that the UFO subject is self disruptive. To me, it seems more like something akin to a suicide syndrome, and I wonder (this being just a thought and not a proclamation) whether or not there is a deeper meaning behind the incredible that ufology presents.

UFO groups first started forming in the early fifties, and now they come and go as often as price rises (I don't think that one has to live in Britain to appreciate that). Yet, if we square up to the problem and ask what progress we have made, enthusiasm evaporates and we discover that we are floundering. To be buoyed up by enthusiasm is simply not enough. One is as vulnerable as an airbourne balloon. Puncture the balloon and the situation literally collapses. So perhaps most of us view ufology through rose-coloured spectacles. We want it to be important so we think it is, irrespective of our escapades within its boundaries. I say this because our precious subject, that we all know is important and of substance, has remained almost at a standstill for years.

Now, I have outlined my concern over the multiplicity of UFO groups before (vide "A Plethora of UFO groups", Awareness, vol.7, no:2, 1978). Also, about a quarter of the book "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" (J.Randles & P.Warrington, published by Robert Hale Ltd., London, 1979) is devoted to the sociology of the problem, and includes a review of the role of ufo groups. As is remarked there, "the pattern they present is almost as complex as the phenomenon they purport to study". Yet we are all a part of this problem, and sometimes the basic psychological reasoning that I can personally come up with seems wholly inadequate. Familiarity with case histories and abundant data does not necessarily equip one to function more effectively; it helps, but does not guarantee invariable rationality.

It has been estimated that 90% of "ufologists" treat the subject like a game. They go out to "spot" ufos much as some people do aeroplanes. If none turn up after a few nights on Cradle Hill, or wherever, they will satisfy themselves with a few juicy books about captured spaceships, government plots, or other science fiction. After a few months, or years, ufo spotting gets boring even to the most enthusiastic sky-watcher, and so the fad dissolves and attention is directed to some other topic, or to some other craze. Meanwhile, ufos continue to come and go and Man has actually done nothing at all about understanding them better; or at least the vast majority of ufo "spotters" haven't even though they have the affrontery to style themselves as "ufologists". Even a large proportion of those who last the pace for years still treat ufology as little more than a significant or rather grand game of bingo. It's fun. It may even provide some with vicarious sensations. By none of these enthusiasts (and they are enthusiasts) really contributes much towards the general advancement of knowledge about the overall nature of the ufo phenomenon. Such enthusiasm is thus almost wholly unproductive. What a waste.

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23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford, M30 6NJ.

Of course, we immediately perceive a great barrier to progress. What, we may ask, is the last thing that these pseudo-interested folk want? It is a solution to the problem. If such could materialize then nothing would remain to speculate about. The mystery would disappear. Fun ceases or is spoilt. What more basic inhibiting factor could exist to prevent stagnation?

Now, before blood pressures mount up and people leap to their feet protesting that "we are not like that", allow me to make it clear that I am generalizing here and, probably, slightly exaggerating the matter to make my point. Most "ufologists" really do believe that they want to find the truth, but they persist in wallowing in lethargy. Whether they recognize it or not, the inhibition factor still operates, albeit subconsciously. The "lethargy" referred to here is one relating to organised and systematic investigation not to physical or mental effort. As pointed out earlier, a great deal of physical and mental effort is indeed expended by many upon the subject, but in the main that effort is directionless. That is the real point of my argument.

This is a problem that is common to ufology as a whole, and, from some points of view, is an inevitable one. The number of truly active research ufologists treating the subject as a valid and vital line of scientific enquiry and prepared to devote major chunks of their life to its study, can almost be counted upon the fingers of one hand, if we talk specifically of Britain. Approximately the same sort of ratio applies to other countries.

There are undoubtedly many others who would dearly like to allocate more of their time to studying the ufo phenomenon, but bounded by constraints (such as family or professional commitments) are unable to do so. Such individuals tend to become "armchair" ufologists, and from many points of view they are in an excellent position to develop sensible overall assessments of the subjects if they bring to bear upon it their professional training and judgement. They are also vital as suppliers of ufo data and as links with the public. That is why ufo organizations exist and why active ufologists are often in regular communication with such individuals. It is also why others sometimes complain "what a waste of time - why don't you do some real research". Such critics often overlook the constraints placed upon many of us. So I am not trying to denigrate particular individuals, but am simply pointing out what appears to be a fundamental fact of ufology.

One might be forgiven for thinking that all such difficulties would be easily overcome. The active ufologists involved with serious research, apart from cultivating their own data-input groups, will link together across boundaries and, perhaps, coalesce into an informal team tackling major ufological problems. In theory that would be fine. Yet, somehow, it seldom if ever seems to work. A commonly given explanation as to why this does not occur concerns personality disputes, and one is left wondering whether 'A' will not work with 'B' because each is afraid that they may lose their little "empires", or that one may be seen to be inferior to the other. Common though this explanation is, reality shows it to be largely unfounded, for most active ufo researchers surprisingly have little interest in "power" or "empire building" or the like. Almost to a man (or woman) they simply want to get on with the job of finding a solution to the problem and are frequently keen to combine resources to maximise effort towards acceptable resolution of the enigma. Yet, even that still does not happen. We ask why?

The difficulties just described are not confined to Britain, where, thankfully, we are relatively free of internecine disputes. In some other countries such squabbles have reached unbelievable proportions, where law suits have actually been initiated by one group against another. Meetings have

occurred at which vitriolic language and bottles of ink have been hurled about. Surely such things do not really happen, ask understandably appalled readers, but regrettably they have and do. In retrospect almost all such differences are seen, even by the protagonists, to have been pointless, and one is encouraged to find that in a few instances former antagonists have eventually settled their differences amicably. The real question here is: why do such things even occur?

When it is considered that all ufologists, whatever the degree of their personal activity within the subject, profess to being paragons of common sense and models of decorum, why is it that so few are apparently able to study their subject in harmony. Might it not be that few if any of the squabblers are qualified academically? Whatever the shortcoming of the academic approach (and a list of these could be prepared), individuals who are professionally qualified seldom resort to open warfare and, as more often as not, prefer to work alone or with a few trusted fellow professionals, even though these may be widely sundered geographically. The lack of any professional or academic training among so many ufologists is not improbably one of the hidden factors underlying the difficulties under review. After all, quite a good case could be made out for supposing that the reason why so many directionless or disorganised individuals are involved in ufology is because one does not have to have a qualification to become involved. Perhaps the time has now arrived why that situation should be reviewed.

There are other factors, often mysterious, at work. Take for example the APEN affair.

Strange things started to happen in 1974 and which persisted until 1976. NUFON members (which had then just started as an attempt to liaise between local ufo groups in the north of England) began receiving communications from a secret organization called APEN (see J.Randles: "The Strange Affair of APEN", MUFOB, Summer 1976). These communications never provided addresses and sent out messages on tapes embellished with NAZI war marches and proclaiming ufo hostility. Considerable consternation arose, particularly when more direct interventions occurred (e.g., there was an occasion when one local ufo group got into trouble with the police as a result of a spurious allegation relayed to them by an anonymous APEN telephone call). Also, they went on to implicate by inuendo, and sometimes by amazingly subtle intervention, several prominent British ufo researchers. Investigations showed that all such allegations were false and that no known UK ufo researcher was in any way connected with APEN. But, and this is the crunch, the seeds of doubt were sown.

Nobody ever succeeded in discovering who or what APEN was, but it vanished in 1976 when the NUFON group jointly decided that the best policy was to ignore it. This was not, however, before two local groups of promise had folded up as a direct result of this ludicrous but simultaneously scandalous APEN campaign, and NUFON itself experienced something of a set back for a while in its progress. It is amusing to reflect that not only has NUFON survived and grown since then, but that it has grown more strongly as a result, for experiences of that kind, scurrilous though they were, actually served to strengthen the resolve and organization of the group.

At the time of writing, APEN is beginning to rear its head again, as recently several NUFON members have begun receiving messages and telephone calls coming, so one is assured, from APEN headquarters. I shall not bore readers with the stupid antics and the machinations of this latest series of APEN outbursts, especially as NUFON's policy is still one of ignoring them, but

here use them as illustrations of the deliberately disruptive policies of certain misguided individuals or cells, and which from time to time plague the more seriously minded members of the ufological fraternity. Disruptors such as APEN make no worthwhile contributions to the ufo scene, but seem to get perverted delight from spoiling the efforts of others. Such forces are the true "lunatic fringe". They haunt all subjects and disciplines. Where such topics are administered by academically and professionally trained persons, as, for example, the British Astronomical Association, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Geological Society of London, such lunatic fringes hardly exist and, whenever they do arise are quietly ignored and have exceedingly few opportunities to generate troubles like those they appear to thrive upon. Yet such Societies number in their ranks amateur and non professional individuals who have proved their worth time and again. I am not advocating, therefore, that all our ufo groups should be run by professionals, but do urge all concerned to look again at the structure and real purpose of their respective organizations. It is surely the uncertainty of purpose in many instances that has led to the division and proliferation of so many ufo groups. It is a surprising fact that few ufo groups even possess a ratified constitution. Both BUFORA and CONTACT (UK) have these as befits national organizations, but what about the remainder? If all remaining ufo groups were to draw up proper constitutions of their own, it would quickly be seen that there is virtually no need for the setting up of still more ufo groups. Inevitably the aims and purposes of all such groups would be virtually indistinguishable from those already in existence elsewhere. There would be visible evidence then of the pointlessness of such new groups. But there might be a heightened public display of the "personality cult" problem which has bedevilled ufology everywhere for so long, that very same factor that I discussed earlier in this article.

Unless we actively strive to get our "ufological house" in order, then we shall continue to stumble about as so many of us have been these past few decades. The rank and file will continue to ufo "spot", the armchair ufologists will continue to play a circumscribed role, and the inevitably few active ufo researchers will draw further and further ahead of the "flock", so to speak, whereby eventually contact between them and the rank and file of ufologists (i.e., the members of ufo groups in general) will be as remote as that presently obtaining between the scientific fraternity on the one hand and the general public on the other. Do we really want that? I feel sure that we don't. Apathy, however, is a true suicide syndrome.

In conclusion it might be pertinent to spare a few thoughts as to the origins of the disruptive elements outlined above. One might speculate --- and it is only speculation --- that there are two prime candidates for the interference. One could be a government body (who in their efforts to discover answers to the ufo enigma independently are anxious to dissuade civilian groups from succeeding --- a somewhat far-fetched notion), and another could be our hypothetical ufonauts, who, as Keel has pointed out, seem to enjoy playing games such as these with witnesses to ufo manifestations. Could not ufonauts subtly extend their activities to ufo groups as well? Again this is speculation. But one thing is certain, if either mystery government bodies or warped ufonauts are the culprits behind such disruptions, then the putting in order of our "ufological house" would cause them a severe headache. If the disruption originates from misguided and silly "ufologists" we all know what to do about them. Ignore them and their activities totally and they cannot thrive. Indeed, they will perish. Someone somewhere said that "ye shall reap what ye sow". Let us sow properly.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

J.B.Delair.

Books on all manner of ufological aspects continue to pour off the world's presses. Some of these are excellent, some poor, and some half way in between these extremes. Below are reviews of a few of the better volumes recently published in this country and abroad.

"The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries",

by Henry Gris and William Dick.

pp.303: Sovenir Press Ltd.(London).

Price £5.50p.

This is a quite fascinating book, which touches upon several topics outside ufology pure and simple, but which nevertheless devotes a chapter to the ufo phenomenon as viewed in Russia. Indeed, the entire book is remarkable compendium of viewpoints presently current in Russia concerning such diverse subjects as Telepathy, Kirlian Photography, Telekinetic Women, Russia's equivalent of the Abominable Snowman, Hypnotherapy, Boris Ermolaev --- the USSR's challenge to Uri Geller, the Search for Extraterrestrial civilizations, and the missing planet Phaeton.

With such a wide range of subjects the authors inevitably could only present each topic in rather encapsulated form, and therefore not in as much detail as many might wish. Nevertheless, every theme is the result of personal interviews with a multitude of Soviet specialists and authorities in these different fields, and statements may thus be regarded as accurate --- coming it is assumed from the proverbial "horses mouth", as it were. Photographs of many eminent Soviet researches adorn this book, as also of the places some of them work at and of the equipment some of them use.

Remarkably error-free on the typographical front, this volume is a notable addition to the relevant literature, and possesses the advantage of a first class index. When in such diverse and comparatively unfamiliar "country" as is covered by the book, such an index is indispensable.

I suppose the majority of present readers will be most interested in chapter 13, which is devoted to UFOs, Professor Felix Zigel, and the Soviet views on the ufo phenomenon; but however one regards it, "The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries" makes for many hours of absorbing reading. It is recommended.

"Earthprobe",

by Hayden C.Hewes.

Pp.1-26. H-B Printing Company, Mounds, Illinois.

Price \$2.00 or the sterling equivalent.

This little booklet, although slim, is an excellent resume of the "piedmont unexplained", those multitudes of mystery lights and objects that plagued the Piedmont region of Missouri during 1973. Many scores of fascinating ufo cases are featured in this booklet together with numerous photographs of sites, witnesses, and even some actual ufos observed then. There are also maps and diagrams, and artist's reconstructions of some of the reported objects. There are also some very interesting eyewitness drawings of what the relevant individuals purportedly saw.

A highly recommended and very interesting little publication, obtainable from P.O.Box 1281, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101, USA. Do get a copy.

"Spooksville's Ghost Lights",

by Capt. Robert E. Loftin.

Pp. 1-28: Ozark Playgrounds Association.

Price \$1.00, or the sterling equivalent.

Spooksville is a rather small community 11 miles SW of Joplin, Missouri (again), which has for many years hosted a series of quite extraordinary ufo events. These go back to pre-Columbian times (as evidenced by Indian legends detailed in this little booklet), and were even seen during the American Civil War (also detailed in this publication). Few ufologists will know of these particular ancient sightings, and probably not many more will now recall and will even have heard of the many others of more recent date from the Ozarks region in which Spooksville is located. This interesting little volume corrects that situation. Professionally printed, it details many fascinating events recorded from the above area, and augments the record with photographs of sites, witnesses, investigators, and a number of actual ufos spotted at various localities. There are maps and drawings too, and accounts of such intriguing items as the "phosphorescent man" and a mystery metal dish-like object that fell near Spooksville in January 1967.

Very well worth the modest price, copies of this booklet can be obtained from Miss Susanne Stebbing who advertises later in this issue. Its author, Captain Robert E. Loftin needs no introduction to the informed.

"The Dyfed Enigma: Unidentified Flying Objects in West Wales",

by Randall Jones Pugh and F.W. Holiday,

Pp. 186: Faber & Faber Ltd., London.

Price £5.95p.

During the first half of 1977, West Wales, and in particular Dyfed county, experienced a quite extraordinary rash of ufo visitations. They included the usual kinds of sightings of airborne objects, as well as landed objects, of objects that disappeared literally into the ground, of flying and grounded humanoid entities, and of objects that, among other things, upset domestic and farm animals. Although some of the events gained wide press publicity at the time, the greater number failed to find their way into public awareness so that, until the appearance of this book, it has not been possible to put all the component events of this "wave" into proper perspective. For that reason alone we should be grateful to the authors, who have painstakingly sifted through an immense amount of material and spent untold hours interviewing witnesses and visiting sites. Even so, literary presentation of such effort might have been bungled with a hotchpotch result. In point of fact the reverse has occurred, so that "The Dyfed Enigma" is a particularly well written book, and totally absorbing from cover to cover.

Considerable sections of this volume are devoted to transcripts of taped interviews with witnesses, whereby the actual conversations relating to specific sightings are to hand for future study. If a few of the questions appear to be "leading" the witness (something that should never occur at an interview), then these may be said to be the only really noticeable defects in this otherwise splendid publication. Illustrated by several high-quality maps and a select bibliography, "The Dyfed Enigma" also features an excellent index. If all ufo books were as well written, as reasonable, and as well produced as this one, then extensive expansion of shelf-space would bear serious consideration. All ufologists should read this volume, and, better still, treat themselves to a copy.

"Manifesto Ovni de Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo y Cuba",
by Sebastian Robiou Lamarche.

Pp.527: Editorial Punto y Coma, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Price: not stated.

Without doubt this volume is one of the bulkiest and most comprehensive ever written on ufos (ovnis), and its author, a celebrated Puerto Rican ufologist, deserves our heartiest congratulations for this fine effort.

Although written in the Spanish language, those familiar with that tongue will find in this book what is unquestionably the best co-ordinated account of ufo activity so far recorded over Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. As a regional study it bears favourable comparison with "UFOs Behind the Iron Curtain", and "UFOs in the Southern Hemisphere". But unlike those parallel studies, this book makes a bolder and more successful attempt to relate the ufo activity of its area to that of other regions and other periods. Considerable attention is devoted to quasi-religious events, such as the famous Fatima miracle, of which Puerto Rico has some equivalents. The author also devotes considerable attention to ancient Carib legends of events evidently relating to ufos, and furnishes illustrations of many native rock paintings of what appear to be artist representations of ufos. Some of the latter may be capable of alternative interpretation, but others almost certainly were inspired by actual ufo observations. It is extremely useful to have so many petroglyphs and rock paintings brought together, as here, in one place.

This book contains numerous ufo photographs (some of them published for the first time), line drawings, and diagrams, both of ufos and humanoid beings. A map of Puerto Rico appears on p.478 marking all the places where ufos and related events have occurred in that country. It is an impressive map. The text also carries no less than 680 notes and/or references, which are arranged by chapters at the end of the book. Compilation of these must have been in itself a major task. Finally there is a list of names of individuals mentioned in the text. Unfortunately there is no index, but I suppose if one had been appended and it had been as detailed as the rest of the volume the final size of "Manifesto Ovni" would have been truly gigantic. As it is, this is a formidable book, and library shelves may need strengthening to support it.

If you read and comprehend Spanish then this is a "must" on your bookshelf. It will for long remain the standard ufological work for the countries concerned. Buy a copy, read it and absorb its contents. You will learn much.

"PHANTOM HELICOPTERS: A U.K. SELECTION"

by

David L.Rees *

In my first two articles on phantom aircraft and helicopters (1: 2), I featured a summary of U.K. sightings for 1973/4, together with some cases from the USA. Since then further data on this fascinating phenomenon --- which I propose to term UEOs (Everyday Objects or more strictly Unidentified Everyday Objects) --- has been amassed. Also, many people have written to me since the publication of Delair's "The Camouflage Syndrome" (3) in which some relationships between phantom aircraft and helicopters and other facets of the ufo enigma were traced, whereby it transpires that many researchers are now int-

* 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire.

erested in UEOs and feel that they represent a field worth researching into. Here, I do not intend to speculate as to what UEOs are or the reason why they appear in our skies, as there is insufficient material upon which to base a reasonable explanation. A mere twenty or so cases is inadequate for that purpose. In this article, therefore, my main aim is to present to readers cases which have occurred and which bear further study; by such methods may we build up a dossier of information for future research.

Accordingly, a selection of U.K. cases from the 1970's is given below.

I: Crosby, Lancashire: October 28th., 1973.

John Parkinson was standing in the back garden of his house when his attention was drawn to an object in the sky. It seemed to float along without any sound. In shape it resembled a silver rocket, and what appeared to be yellow portholes were visible along its side. These latter reminded him of an object he had seen at Southport some years previously. The object was visible for a few minutes before it passed from sight behind some houses. Then, what he took to be a light aircraft appeared in the sky, but on reaching the spot where the rocket shaped object had disappeared from view, the aircraft began circling the area and then flew back the way it had come. This aircraft made normal engine noises and had the usual lights. When it flew over a neighbouring playing field, it cut its engines and glided for a couple of minutes at low altitude before starting them up again. Altogether, it was in view for 15 minutes (4).

II: Loughton, Essex: a summer afternoon in 1975 (exact date unrecorded).

Mrs May (real name withheld) was walking home from work along The Drive, a side road off the A121 High Road running through Loughton. The time was 17.10 hours when she noticed just above the tree line of Staples Hill, two identical aeroplanes approaching each other from the right. There was something odd about them, however, for they were totally silent. Although they were typical light aircraft with wings, a fuselage and tail planes, they appeared to be completely black (even though bright sunshine occurred at the time) and appeared to be devoid of sun reflections of any kind. In addition, neither aeroplane had propellers, wheels, or any type of insignia on them. There were no smoke or vapour trails. But what really concerned Mrs May were their flight-paths. These were on a direct collision course. Mrs May admits to having actually squealed out loud just before the expected and seemingly inevitable collision, but then something most weird occurred: the aeroplane approaching from the right emitted a loud engine noise (described as like that of a jet aircraft landing), and then vanished into thin air. "It didn't fly away suddenly or disintegrate, it just was not there any more". The noise ceased at the same time, this actual sound having lasted for very few seconds in any case. Mr Peter Spink, who investigated this case, related that Mrs May had the brief impression that the aeroplane just "folded into itself" (perhaps like a television picture as soon as the TV "on" switch is turned off). The other aircraft continued soundlessly on its way as if nothing had happened, and disappeared into the distance (5).

III: Barnehurst, Kent: July 26th., 1978.

50-years old Mrs Clark was doing some gardening one sunny afternoon when she was "startled suddenly by this helicopter just above the clothes line, which made me duck down and fall over. From this position on the ground, I looked up and saw two men distinctly. One was looking down at me, but the other, who was slightly behind, looked ahead. I got up, still looking at

him and him at me, and then I started to walk up the path, and from that moment I did not think of it again and did not see it (the helicopter) go. When my husband came home I remembered the event and told him about this helicopter which was flying so low that it made me fall over. He then started to ask me such question as 'was I deafened by the sound' and 'did the rotors blow everything about'. It was only then that I realised there must have been something strange about it for when he was asking me these questions I realised that there had been no sound and no down draught from the rotors, which I had not noticed. The two men looked ordinary human beings, and so did the helicopter. The window (of the helicopter) was all in one and I did not notice any landing gear, skids or wheels. No markings at all. The helicopter was 16 feet (4.9m) above the ground and was brownish-black in colour" (6): see pl.1, figs.1 and 2.

IV: Kersal, Salford, Lancashire: June 27th., 1978.

Keith James was walking along Cheadle Avenue, when he saw a most unusual object in the sky. It was rocket-shaped with two forward wings and four rear fins. Between the wings and the fins were two tubes, which emerged from the fuselage, ran parallel with it and then re-entered the fuselage just in front of the fins. The object had a pointed nose, with an upper cockpit window characterised by blue-tinted material: see pl.1, figs.3 and 4). The object made a faint buzzing sound as it passed overhead, before disappearing behind four blocks of flats (7).

V: Llanerchymedd, Anglesey, N.Wales: September 2nd., 1978.

Several witnesses came forward to state that at, approximately 23.00 hours, there was a considerable amount of air force activity over Llanerchymedd. This consisted of low flying which lasted for about one hour. A Mr... (name withheld by request) also came forward to inform investigators that on the morning of the following day (Sept.3rd.), at 02.30 hours to be more precise, he was awakened by a loud bang, followed by a deep thud. This gentleman immediately got out of bed and went to his bedroom window, which overlooks a field which, only two days previously (Sept.1st.), had hosted a CEIII event. On looking around he was surprised to see at least three military style helicopters circling this and neighbouring fields, and, as they did so, he could see a flare dropping onto the ground. He claims that the flare was dropped from one of the helicopters. As this was happening, a jet aeroplane streaked overhead. Due to obstructions, the witness could not exactly determine why flares were being dropped; neither could he identify the type of craft being used other than that they appeared to be of military design. Subsequent checks with military authorities revealed that, according to officials, the military deny all knowledge of the event (8).

VI: Marston, nr.Oxford, Oxfordshire: March 22nd., 1979.

Adam Curtis was walking along Marston Ferry Road at 19.50 hours, looking north up the river Cherwell, when suddenly he saw this "thing" plunging down out of the sky in flames. Although some distance away, it was near enough for him "to see the outline of a fuselage and wings. The whole thing seemed to be on fire. But after diving earthwards for 2-3 seconds it disappeared, still several hundred feet above the ground. There was no sound, no explosion or flash of light". There was also a similar case to this one in Belgium on the same day.

Emergency services which were called out failed to find anything (9).

VII: Broad Oak Common, Hampshire: Autumn 1978 (exact date unnoted).

The identity of troops who used this picturesque locality for an exercise one Autumn day this year still remains shrouded in mystery. Despite investigations by Odiham Parish Council, nobody has been able to discover who the soldiers were or which unit they belonged to. Armed with guns and flares, and backed up by "helicopters", they carried out an exercise near the canal. This lasted into the night, much to the amazement of residents.

When Odiham Parish Council heard that yet another enquiry had failed to reveal anything about the identity of these forces, Counc. Miss Pamela Bouch commented: "So they did come from Mars after all". Intended no doubt as a joke, this statement may nonetheless reflect the reality of some other-world origin for the mystery soldiers, even though Mars may not necessarily be the source. Bob Rickard, editor of "Fortean Times", informs me that these soldiers and their equipment are "untraceable by RAF and ARMY" (10).

VIII: Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: December 1978 (exact date uncertain).

Many helicopters were seen over this district. On one occasion whole formations of four or five flew low over the town before vanishing beyond the horizon towards London. More recently they have flown over singly. Enquiries have produced mixed results. For example nobody knows who or what organisation they represent; where they fly from or fly to, or what purpose they have in flying so low over this quite ordinary community. The Environment Health Committee is now investigating the affair, but so far has not announced its findings (11).

IX: Crewe, Cheshire: August 2nd., 1979.

Stephen Cleaver, chairman of the Federation of UFO Research, was, on the day in question, at work in the Crewe Locomotive works. The time was 10.15 hours, when: "Although the work area is extremely noisy, my workmates and myself heard a terrific drone as two helicopters passed very low overhead. I immediately ran outside to have a closer look, and as I reached the outside doorway the two objects were directly overhead. Both were extremely low (less than 40 feet) and flying in close formation. Both were black and appeared to lack identification markings. None whatsoever".

These objects were in view for approximately 20 seconds as they travelled in a SE direction. This witness also reports that, on another occasion, four helicopters, all dark green in colour, were seen together flying over the same district, and that unusual helicopters have in fact been noted flying over his area since about mid-June this year, although at irregular intervals (12). Their origin and identity remains a mystery.

X: Rookery Bridge, Sandbach, Cheshire: May 19th., 1977.

A railway-track man was walking along the "lines" as a normal part of his duties. It was a hot day, and time was 13.30 hours. His colleagues had stopped work for a drink and the witness (Mr Allen) sat a little apart from them. Suddenly something caused him to look upwards, where he saw a passenger aeroplane and also another much smaller object something like it. The smaller object had short wings sliced at their ends, and appeared to be transparent with patches of grey all over it. It was below the passenger aeroplane. Both craft moved NE to W and were climbing. They disappeared from view in approximately two minutes. Mr Allen compared the UEO

as like "looking at an X-ray plate". He said nothing to his colleagues, deciding to remain quiet until someone else reported it. Shortly afterwards, he developed a skin rash, which was red and itchy and felt much warmer than the rest of his skin. It covered his forehead, cheeks, arms, and the webs of his fingers, in fact those areas of his flesh most exposed to the UEO. It left him after three days, reappeared a few weeks later, and then went away for good. It is not positively established whether there was any connection between the rash and the UEO (13).

The above cases, collectively speaking, make very interesting reading. We are as yet unable to formulate a convincing hypothesis that explains all the various factors contained within them, but we might, nonetheless, bear in mind the observations of contactee Betty Hill: "In my opinion, it seems that UFOs are developing techniques where they can approach at a much lower level without arousing suspicions, by duplicating known craft". Well known researcher, Kurt Sutherly has also remarked: "Just as UFOs are normally considered to be spacecraft, yet seem to vary their external appearance to suit the occasion, is it possible that our mystery copters are merely another variant of this continually perplexing ufo phenomenon?".

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, I do not intend here to speculate on the aforementioned material, but I would ask all those with additional data to contact me (address already provided) in order that all relevant information can be brought together in the shortest possible time.

R e f e r e n c e s & N O T E S

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"HELICOPTER FORMATIONS OVER OHIO"

by

Vera L. Perry *

The two occasions described hereafter, while not provably connected with UFOs, or with David Rees's UEOs, certainly compare quite closely with the latter and, I believe, deserve to be recorded here. The relevant details follow.

* Box 464, Huron, Ohio 44839, USA.

PLATE I

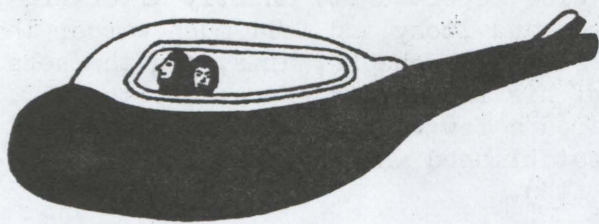


Fig. 1.

Barnehurst : 26.7.78.



Fig. 2.

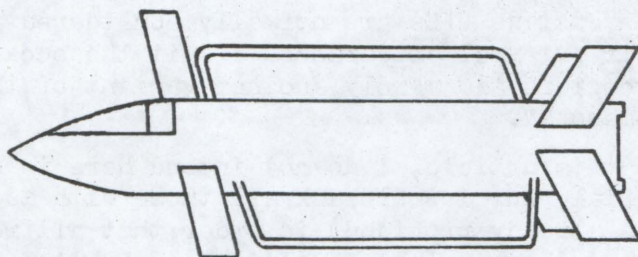


Fig. 3.

SALFORD : 27.6.78.

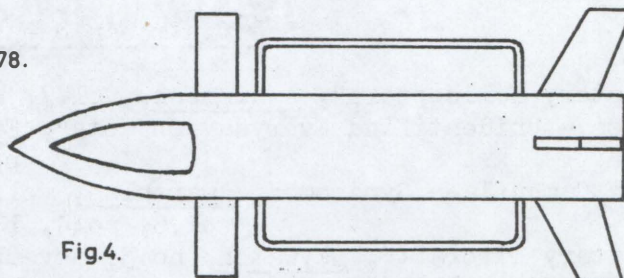


Fig. 4.

PLATE II



Fig. 1.

Huron, Ohio, U.S.A.; 10.6.1978



Fig 2

Huron, Ohio, U.S.A.; 11.6.1978.

On Saturday June 10th., 1978, at 10.45 am., I was feeding chickens when I heard the chopping sound of a helicopter approaching. I was curious because the noise was tremendously loud and it sounded as though it was low. After about three minutes I was able to see what was going on, and did I get a surprise. There wasn't just one helicopter, there were four. They were coming from the east and going out over Lake Erie close by. They flew in a diamond formation (see pl.2, fig.1). Each was totally black and devoid of markings or identifications. They were rather small helicopters and appeared to have ski-like devices underneath them.

The following day (Sunday, June 11th.), I was out taking care of my dogs (I am a professional dog breeder) when, at 9.25 am., I heard an extremely loud chopping noise, such as helicopters make. Three or four minutes later, coming from over Lake Erie, and from the same direction into which the helicopters seen on the previous day had flown, came six identical looking helicopters at a steady rate, but changing positions relative to one another as they did so. When they got closer to my property they steadied up into a more definite formation which they held until they disappeared from view over the eastern horizon. These helicopters were, again, totally black and devoid of identification markings, were rather small, and equipped with ski-like apparatus underneath (see pl.2, fig.2).

There was definitely something rather odd about both sightings, the excessive noise long before the objects hove into view being most curious, and the almost sinister appearance of all the objects being particularly noteworthy. It is to be hoped that a rational explanation for these occurrences can be found in the not too distant future.

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